

ISN103

PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH AND CRITICAL ENQUIRY

Unit Description

The *Psychology Research and Critical Enquiry* unit will equip students with knowledge of the scientific approach as applied to psychological research. Specifically, students will be introduced to all elements of the research process, including: planning and research design, conducting basic statistical analysis, considering the ethical implications of psychological research, and the communication of statistical and research data. The principles of critical thinking, within the context of psychology, will also be explored in this unit, with the aim of facilitating student's critical enquiry and evaluation of psychological information.

Required Textbooks and Readings*

Gravetter F. J., & Forzano L. B. (2019). *Research methods for the behavioural sciences* (6th ed). Boston, MA: Cengage

**Textbooks may be subject to change prior to the start of semester*

Administrative Details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Core or Elective	Level	Unit Coordinator	Other Teaching Staff
Bachelor of Psychology	One semester	Core	First year, Semester 1	Dr Helen Nasser	N/A

Unit weighting as a percentage of the year

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
12.5	400

Student workload

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
4-hours (1 x 2-hour lecture; 1 x 2-hr tutorial)	6-hours	10-hours

Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Learning outcomes for Unit.	
Upon successful completion of this unit, the student should be able to:	
I.	Demonstrate and apply an understanding of basic scientific methods in psychology research including the ethical implications of psychological research
II.	Establish research questions and develop testable hypotheses, operationalise variables, and choose appropriate method to conduct that research
III.	Critically evaluate psychological research and writing and apply knowledge of the scientific method to psychological sciences
IV.	Identify potential problems that can arise in research methodology, data analysis, presentation and interpretation of research results
V.	Differentiate between evidence-based argument and speculation, recognise major fallacies in human thinking and identify claims that arise from pseudoscience
VI.	Prepare and produce psychological research report conforming to APA formatting conventions

Overview of Assessment Tasks

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)	Unit Learning Outcomes
Laboratory report [1,500 words]	40%	I, II, III, IV, VI
Examination [50 item multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions]	40%	I, II, III, IV, V
In class participation [Discussion, debates, case study analysis]	20%	I, II, III, IV, V

Delivery mode

Face to face on site; Full-time or Part-time study

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

None

Other Resource and Requirements

None

**Unit outlines may be subject to change. The most up-to-date outlines will be provided to students once the semester commences.*